

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A process for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue in a sample of an egg which process comprises:

(i) contacting the sample with a test composition comprising a test microorganism the results of which test are based on microbial growth suitable for being used in a method for determining the presence or absence of an antimicrobial residue;

(ii) inactivating any compound naturally present in the sample that is capable of inhibiting growth of the test microorganism leading to a false positive results absent said inactivating step by heating the contacted sample and test composition for a sufficient time interval to inactivate said any compound that inhibits microbial growth present in the sample without inactivating the antimicrobial residue to be detected; and followed by

(iii) incubating the contacted sample and test composition, to determine whether microbial growth occurs,

whereby the absence of microbial growth indicates the presence of at least one antimicrobial residue, and the presence of microbial growth indicates the absence of any antimicrobial residue.

2. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1, wherein said heating is to a temperature of from 70°C to 100°C.

3. (previously presented): A process according to claim 2, wherein said heating is to a temperature of from 75°C to 85°C.

4. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1, wherein said heating is from 2 to 20 minutes.

5. (previously presented): A process according to claim 4, wherein said heating is from 10 to 15 minutes.

6. (currently amended): A process according to claim 1 wherein the test composition comprises [[a]] the test microorganism, nutrients and one or more indicators of microbial growth present in an agar medium.

7-11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended): The process of claim 1, wherein said ~~natural~~-compound inhibiting microbial growth is lysozyme.

13. (previously presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the sample is homogenized prior to step (i).